

Message Text

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ACTION PC-15

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P 201058Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 3052

UNCLAS MANAMA 612

FOR PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR DELLENBACK FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : OGEN, BA

SUBJECT : PEACE CORPS BAHRAIN: RECRUITMENT PROBLEMS

1. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT PEACE CORPS' APPARENT INABILITY TO FILL A HANDFUL OF LONG-PLANNED JOBS IN BAHRAIN THIS MONTH, AND EVEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THIS PORTENDS FOR A MORE AMBITIOUS SEPTEMBER RECRUITING PROGRAM. I CAN NO LONGER AVOID ASKING YOUR PERSONAL HELP WITH THIS PROBLEM.

2. AS WE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON LAST AUGUST, PEACE CORPS BAHRAIN HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SKILLS IN PURSUIT OF OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF FOSTERING BAHRAIN'S ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT. WE DO NOT SEEK, NOR DO THE BAHRAINIS WANT, VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS FOR SUPERFICIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES. RATHER WE HAVE SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY A FEW KEY JOBS IN WHICH QUALIFIED, MATURE VOLUNTEERS MIGHT FIND SOLID PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION WHILE MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO BAHRAIN'S DEVELOPMENT.

3. IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN CONTINUES TO VALUE AND WELCOME THE PEACE CORPS, REALIZING THAT THE VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE A CHERISHED AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL IMPACT NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE. SENIOR BAHRAINI OFFICIALS ARE SOPHISTICATED IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT VOLUNTEERS ARE ALL ABOUT; HENCE THEY GRASP FULLY MY REPEATED CAUTIONS THAT PEACE CORPS' PROMISE TO TRY TO RECRUIT CERTAIN VOLUNTEERS IS NOT A BINDING EARLY COMMITMENT TO FILL THE JOBS IN QUESTION.

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4. BUT THE ENVIRONMENT OF UNDERSTANDING THE GOVERNMENT OF
BAHRAIN PROVIDES PEACE CORPS HAS ITS COMMON SENSE LIMITS.
THE BAHRAINIS ARE TRYING TO RUN A SERIOUS PUBLIC ADMINIS-
TRATION. ON THE BASIS OF PEACE CORPS' OFFER TO TRY TO DO
SO THEY ARE LOOKING TO PEACE CORPS TO FILL REAL JOBS THIS SPRING
AND NEXT FALL. IF PEACE CORPS FAILS, BAHRAIN MUST LOOK
ELSEWHERE, I AND IN A HURRY.

5; THUS I URGENTLY ASK YOUR ASSISTANCE. IF PEACE CORPS HAS
THE WORLD WIDE RESOURCES TO FILL SUCH JOBS, THE 3-4 POSITIONS
STILL UNFILLED HERE FOR MAY DESERVE PRIORITY. IF PEACE CORPS
CANNOT, I PERSONALLY MUST PROMPTLY SO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT OF
BAHRAIN AT CABINET LEVEL. THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED
IS SO SMALL THAT MY ONLY PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION MUST BE THAT
PEACE CORPS HAS MADE AN INTENSE AND PURPOSEFUL TRY AT RE-
CRUITING BUT THAT THE POSITIONS INVOLVED OVERLY TAX PEACE
CORPS' PRESENT BUT NOT FUTURE RESOURCES OF SPECIFIC SKILLS.

6. WITH YOUR PERSONAL ASSURANCE I THINK I CAN SELL THIS LINE,
IF I MUST, AND STILL MAINTAIN SOME OF THE CREDIBILITY OF THE
PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER AND FUTURE YEARS. IT IS A GOOD PROGRAM,
AS THE CONCERN OF PRESENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEIR JOBS BE FILLED
BY QUALIFIED REPLACEMENTS ATTESTS. I KNOW YOU SHARE MY VIEW
THAT PEACE CORPS BAHRAIN, BEING WORTHWHILE, IS WORTH DOING WELL.

7. WARMEST REGARDS.
TWINAM

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